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Northern Lambda Nord

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MORE CLERGY RESPOND TO SURVEY

Since our last newsletter, three more responses to the survey sent during December and January have been received. The survey, sent by the Gay-Lesbian Phoneline, asked if area physicians, dentists, lawyers, and clergy would accept referrals from the Phoneline. These referrals would be in response to phone inquiries for a gay-supportive doctor, lawyer, or clergy, someone who welcome us and would not be judgemental. During April three more clergy have replied:

Rev. EDWIN A. VONDERHEIDE, Stetson Memorial United Methodist Church, Patten: "I know that homosexual preference is not seen as a mental or psychological disorder and I do not believe that seeking to change such orientation is constructive in pastoral counseling. Yet because I believe human sexuality is a complex thing, I believe that it should be helpful to discuss the matter in a non-judgmental way if so requested. I certainly would not reject such requests."

Rev. RENÉ T. MATHIEU, Church of the Holy Rosary, Caribou: "I would most certainly be willing to accept referrals from the Gay-Lesbian Phoneline."

Rev. THOMAS J. BEAM, Aroostook Lutheran Parish ( Faith Lutheran Church, Caribou, and Trinity Lutheran Church, Stockholm): "Given the ministry of Word and Sacrament in which I find myself, I am comfortable in committing to you what time I can make available for oral counseling...However, to avoid confusion, this ministry of reconciliation between God and human beings through Jesus Christ, being so rooted in the Living Word, does not commend me to condone nor bless human sexual unions which reside outside norms stated in Holy Scripture. With these parameters in mind, therefore, I repeat my offer of my services to you based upon the constraints of pastoral time available."

MAINE CIVIL RIGHTS BILL FAILS TO PASS AGAIN

For the seventh time the Maine Legislature has failed to pass a Gay-Lesbian Civil Rights Bill. The efforts of the Maine Lesbian-Gay Political Alliance (MLGPA) and their allies fell just short of victory in 1991.

The bill was an amendment to the Maine Human Rights Act which would have added the term "sexual orientation" to the list of protected categories dealing with discrimination in housing, employment, public accommodation and credit in Maine. It passed the Maine Senate 14-13 but lost in the House of Representatives by six votes; nine House members who supported the bill the last time it was introduced (1989) opposed the legislation this time. Despite political maneuverings, it failed to gain sufficient votes on a second tally of legislators.

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CHALLENGE TO NEW BIBLE TRANSLATION

Dignity, an organization of gay and lesbian Catholics, has challenged on both scriptural and pastoral grounds the new translation of 1 Corinthians 6,9 and 1 Timothy 1,10 as they currently appear in the new edition of the New American Bible (NAB). NAB editors translated 1 Cor 6,9 as, "Do you not know that the unjust will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters nor adulterers nor boy prostitutes nor practicing homosexuals...will inherit the Kingdom of God." The term "practicing homosexuals" is also used in a similar series of evildoers in 1 Tim 1,10.

In a report to respective Bishops' committees that oversee the publication of the NAB

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TWO library parties were held during April at Northern Lambda Nord's lending library, **Bibliothèque Lambda**. A form was filled out on every volume in the collection and the total is 932! The volunteers - Roger M. Roger T., Ray, Doug, Jody, Phil, Dick, and Dennis (who organized the books and book party) should be commended for all the work; it took more than 60 "manhours" to complete the task. This information will now go into the computer and, when complete, a master library list will be sent to each Lambda member.

To give people an idea of what's in **Bibliothèque Lambda**, a sampling of books in the library is published in **Communiqué** each month.

**GAY AMERICAN HISTORY; Lesbians and gay Men in the U.S.A.** by Jonathan Katz (1976). "Unique among books about Gay people, this pioneering work brings together for the first time a large group of historical chronicles of American Lesbian and Gay life, coupled with the heterosexual attitudes of the era. Intended for an audience of all sexual persuasions, these selections reflect a new, historical view of this once-silent, invisible minority and a dramatic reappraisal of American life, from Alexander Hamilton’s love letters to John Laurens, to the forgotten autobiography and insane asylum records of a feminist transvestite of the 19th century, to lesbianism in the life of blues great Bessie Smith, and to the present in a 1976 report of the first Gay liberation organization of American Indians."

**A BOY'S OWN STORY** by Edmund White (1982) This, his third novel, is full of "pungent observation, wonderful language and convincing sensuality. This novel about seduction and maturity, about America and about 'homosexual fate,' is a large and happy accomplishment." — Susan Sontag.

NEW BIBLE and the lectionary based on it, Dignity cited several Biblical scholars who concluded that the passages did not refer to persons with a homosexual orientation. These passages as they currently stand are pastorally harmful and could provoke violence against lesbians and gays from individuals who use the Bible as a defense for violence or prejudicial behavior. Alternatives suggested for the phrase "practicing homosexuals" include "the morally infamous" or "ethically infamous"; for "boy prostitutes" they recommend "morally loose" or "ethically soft".

The Bishops Lectionary Subcommittee is giving consideration to the findings in Dignity's report.

For more information: Tom Farley, POB 103, North Sullivan, Maine 04464

"TO ALL WIMMIN:"

MAINELY FOR YOU is a "commercial campground that is making available time that will be for wimmin only." It’s a 65-acre campground on a 218-acre pond. They have water & electric hook-ups on every site; 20 rustic cottages with full baths and modern conveniences, plus wilderness sites. There are currently women-only time slots during the year; the space will eventually be women-only all the time, if the demand warrants.

Special dates are:
- May 2-5, Opening work weekend - free camping in exchange for help in basic opening procedures.
- May 9-12, and Oct 3-6 are both women-only camping times.
- Oct 11-13, Closing work weekend - free camping in exchange for help in basic closing procedures.

Seasonal sites are available.

MAINELY FOR YOU
POB 1333, Auburn, Maine 04211
The Maine Lesbian & Gay Film Festival 1991

Once again a dedicated group of Portland people known as Out & Out Productions is bringing us the second annual Maine Film Festival featuring films and videos which portray lesbians and gaymen of all ages, races, and class backgrounds, films which explore lesbian and gay lives in personal terms, and films which emphasize gay and lesbian issues in societies other than our own.

Opening night is Friday, May 10, 7pm at the Portland Museum of Art. The evening’s events will include two films, a gayla reception (catered by some of Portland’s best restaurants), and a surprise or two.

The Festival moves to the Portland Performing Arts Center Saturday and Sunday, May 11 & 12. Films and videos will be shown simultaneously from noon until midnight Saturday, and from noon till 6pm Sunday. Independent, foreign, and experimental films, as well as major releases and shorts will be shown.

Preliminary listing of this year’s films: Tongues Untied; Oranges are Not the Only Fruit; James Baldwin: The Price of the Ticket; An Empty Be; Common Theads; Paris is Burning; Night Out; I Got This Way From Kissing Girls; Ballad of Reading Gaol; Salut Victor; and I’ve Heard the Mermaids Singing.

TICKETS – THREE OPTIONS: (1) WEEKEND PASS - admission to all films and all three days if you arrive at the theatre 15 minutes before each showing - $27 until May 9; $32 on May 10. (2) DAY PASSES - available at the door for all three days-Friday is $12, Saturday is $17, and Sunday is $12. Arrive 15 minutes before each show to guarantee your seat. (3) SINGLE TICKETS - $5 each, sold at the door Saturday & Sunday for that day’s films. NO single tickets sold for Friday.

BOX OFFICE opens Friday at 5pm, Saturday & Sunday at 11am. For WEEKEND PASSES call 828-4714 or write to OUT & OUT PRODUCTIONS, POB 7982, Portland 04112. Mail order tickets received after May 3 are held at the door in your name. VIDEOS - ADMISSION to video screenings is on a first-come, first-served basis. Any festival ticket will admit you to the video screening room, space permitting.

NEW/NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK UPDATE

It was reported last month that the New Brunswick Coalition for Human Rights Reform/Coalition pour la réforme des droits de la personne au Nouveau-Brunswick received a grant for $54,000. The grant was awarded by Canada Health and Welfare, a government agency. According to a Coalition spokesperson, the organization will not be using the money for “postage and other...office expenses”, as reported in this column. Instead, the money has been designated for a “health needs assessment” for the lesbian-gay community in the province and not for their political/lobbying work.

The political goal of the Coalition is inclusion of “sexual orientation” in the New Brunswick Human Rights Code.
COUNTY LEGISLATORS
SUPPORT OUR CIVIL RIGHTS

Three members of the Aroostook County Delegation, all from the House of Representatives, voted in favor of LD 430, a bill to amend the Maine Human Rights Act. All three will be honored at the May 4th NLN 11th anniversary party. They are JUDY PARADIS from Frenchville, CAROLINE MAHANY from Easton, and NASON GRAHAM from Houlton. ▼

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MAINE BILL FAILS

Many felt the final blow was dealt by Governor John McKernan who last fall said he would let the bill pass if the legislature approved it; now he changed his tune. The day before the vote in the House he announced he would veto the bill unless it required a referendum of the people. (This "new song" reminds this editor of McKernan's pre- and then post-election claims about the state budget.)

Since the sessions of the Maine Legislature are two years in length, the next chance for passage is 1993; McKernan will be in his final year in office at that time. ▼